



News Release

PO Box 360, Trenton, N.J. 08625-0360

Fred M. Jacobs, M.D., J.D.
Commissioner

For Release:
November 7, 2005

For Further Information, Contact

(609) 984-7160

Department of Health and Senior Services Proposes to Amend N.J.A.C. 8:36, 8:39, and 8:43G, the Standards for Licensure of Assisted Living Residences, Comprehensive Personal Care Homes, Assisted Living Programs, Long-Term Care Facilities, and Hospitals, to Establish Requirements for Prompt Notification of Patient and Resident Deaths to Family Members, Guardians, or Other Designated Persons

The Division of Long Term Care Systems in the Senior Services Branch of the Department of Health and Senior Services is proposing to amend N.J.A.C. 8:36-4.6, 13.7 and 18.8 of the Standards for Licensure of Assisted Living Residences, Comprehensive Personal Care Homes, and Assisted Living Programs, and N.J.A.C. 8:39-13.1 and 27.4 of the Standards for Licensure of Long-Term Care Facilities, to establish requirements for prompt notification to family members, guardians, or other designated persons of resident deaths in these types of facilities. In a separate proposal, the Certificate of Need and Acute Care Licensure Program of the Acute Care Facility Oversight Area of the Health Care Quality and Oversight Branch of the Department is proposing to amend N.J.A.C. 8:43G-5.2 of the Hospital Licensure Standards to establish requirements for prompt notification to family members, guardians, or other designated persons of patient deaths in hospitals. Both notices of proposal appear in the November 7, 2005 issue of the New Jersey Register.

N.J.S.A. 26:2H-5e requires the Commissioner of Health and Senior Services to promulgate rules to implement the requirement of that statute that certain facilities licensed by the Department "adopt and maintain written policies procedures to delineate the responsibilities of ... staff for prompt notification of a family member, guardian, or other designated person about a patient's death and confirmation and written documentation of that notification." The proposed amendments would implement this statutory requirement.

The public has until January 6, 2006 to comment on the proposals.

Persons wishing to comment on the proposal to amend N.J.A.C. 8:36-4.6, 13.7 and 18.8 of the Standards for Licensure of Assisted Living Residences, Comprehensive Personal Care Homes, and Assisted Living Programs, and N.J.A.C. 8:39-13.1 and 27.4 of the Standards for Licensure of Long-Term Care Facilities, must submit their comments in writing to Barbara Goldman, Director, Long Term Care Licensing and Certification, Division of Long Term Care Systems, Department of Health and Senior Services, P O Box 367, Trenton, NJ 08625-0367.

Persons wishing to comment on the proposal to amend N.J.A.C. 8:43G-5.2 must submit their comments in writing to John A. Calabria, Director, Certificate of Need and Acute Care Licensure Program, Department of Health and Senior Services, P O Box 360, Room 403, Trenton, NJ 08625-0360.

Written comments on either proposal must be postmarked on or before January 6, 2006, which is the close of the 60-day public comment period.

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